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GENEVA FOR USINF

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: MNUC, PARM, PR, UR, NATO
 SUBJECT: INF: FRENCH NON-PAPER ON INF AND FRENCH FORCES

REF: USNATO 129

1. (C) BEGIN SUMMARY: FRENCH PERMREP MERILLON
 CAUTIONED ALLIES AT JANUARY 11 PERMREPS LUNCH ON THE NEED

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TO STAND FIRM ON THE NON-INCLUSION OF FRENCH FORCES IN INF. MERILLON HAD PRIVATELY SIGNALLED TO US EARLIER HIS CONCERNS ON THIS MATTER, AS REPORTED REFTEL. SEPTTEL ON PERMREPS LUNCH CONTAINS MERILLON'S ORAL COMMENTS. PARA 2 BELOW CONTAINS THE TEXT OF FRENCH NON-PAPER WHICH MERILLON DISTRIBUTED WHICH OUTLINES THE FAMILIAR FRENCH RATIONALE:

- -- FRANCE REJECTS ITS FORCES BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IN THE US-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS;
- -- FRENCH FORCES SERVE A DIFFERENT STRATEGIC DOCTRINE, NAMELY "DISSUASION BY THE WEAK OF THE STRONG," AND THUS CANNOT BE CONSIDERED PART OF NATO FORCES NOR OF NATO STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE RESPONSE;
- -- THE SMALL SIZE OF FRENCH FORCES REPRESENTS THE MINIMUM ESSENTIAL NECESSARY FOR A CREDIBLE DETERRENT. NEGOTIATING REDUCTIONS WOULD CAUSE THE FRENCH DETERRENT FORCE TO LOSE ITS CREDIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF FRENCH NON-PAPER (TEXT IS UNCLASSIFIED)

LA FRANCE REJETTE TOUTE IDEE DE PRISE EN COMPTE DIRECTE OU INDIRECTE DANS LES NEGOCIATIONS SOVIETO-AMERICAINES DE SES SYSTEMS NUCLEAIRES QUI NE SAURAIENT ETRE COMPARES OU ASSIMILES A TELLE OU TELLE CATEGORIE DE FORCES D'UN AUTRE PAYS. L'ENSEMBLE DE NOS MOYENS FORME UN TOUT INDISSOCIABLE FACE A LA MENACE GLOBALE QUE REPRESENTENT TOUS LES MOYENS DE L'ADVERSAIRE POTENTIEL.

NOS FORCES NUCLEAIRES SONT AU SERVICE D'UNE DOCTRINE QUI NOUS EST PROPRE, CELLE DE LA DISSUASION DU FAIBLE AU FORT. INDEPENDANTES, ELLES NE SONT EN AUCUNE MANIERE SUBSTITUABLES A CELLES DE L'OTAN. COMPTE TENU DE LEUR NATURE, ELLES NE SAURAIENT REMPLIR LES MISSIONS QUE NOS ALLIES ASSignent AUX FUTURS MISSILES DE L'OTAN DANS LE CADRE DE LA STRATEGIE DE LA RIPOSTE GRADUEE.

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AU DEMEURANT, LE NIVEAU DE NOTRE ARMEMENT NUCLEAIRE, HORS
DE PROPORTION AVEC CELUI DES DEUX GRANDS, EST DETERMINE
PAR LA NOTION DE SUFFISANCE, AFIN D'ASSURER LA CREDIBILITE
DE NOS FORCES. NOUS N'AVONS PAS LES MOYENS, SAUF A
TOMBER EN-DECA DU SEUIL DE CREDIBILITE, DE NEGOCIER NE
PUT-CE QU'UNE PARTIE DE CELLES-CI. END TEXT. BENNETT

END OF MESSAGE

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